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March 24, 2010

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**EX PARTE**

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket 09-51  
High Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket 05-337  
Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket 01-92

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On March 24, 2010, Richard Coit and Greg Dean of the South Dakota Telecommunications Association (SDTA), Jeff Wilson of Dickey Rural Networks and the undersigned met with Christi Shewman, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Baker to discuss the National Broadband Plan, intercarrier compensation and federal universal service.

Mr. Coit and Mr. Wilson commented on the widespread availability of broadband services in the areas served by rural incumbent local exchange carriers in South Dakota and North Dakota; the tremendous amount of investment made in broadband networks by the carriers; and the need for continued USF programs to support the broadband investments already made by the carriers and planned by the carriers and the ongoing operations of the carriers. In addition, there was a discussion concerning the need to reform intercarrier compensation.

General information concerning SDTA's members was provided. A copy of this information is attached.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, this letter is being filed via ECFS with the Commission's Secretary for inclusion in the above-referenced dockets. Please contact the undersigned if there are any questions concerning this filing.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Mary J. Sisak

Mary J. Sisak

Attachment

Cc:  
Christi Shewman

# South Dakota Telecommunications Association **Who are we?**

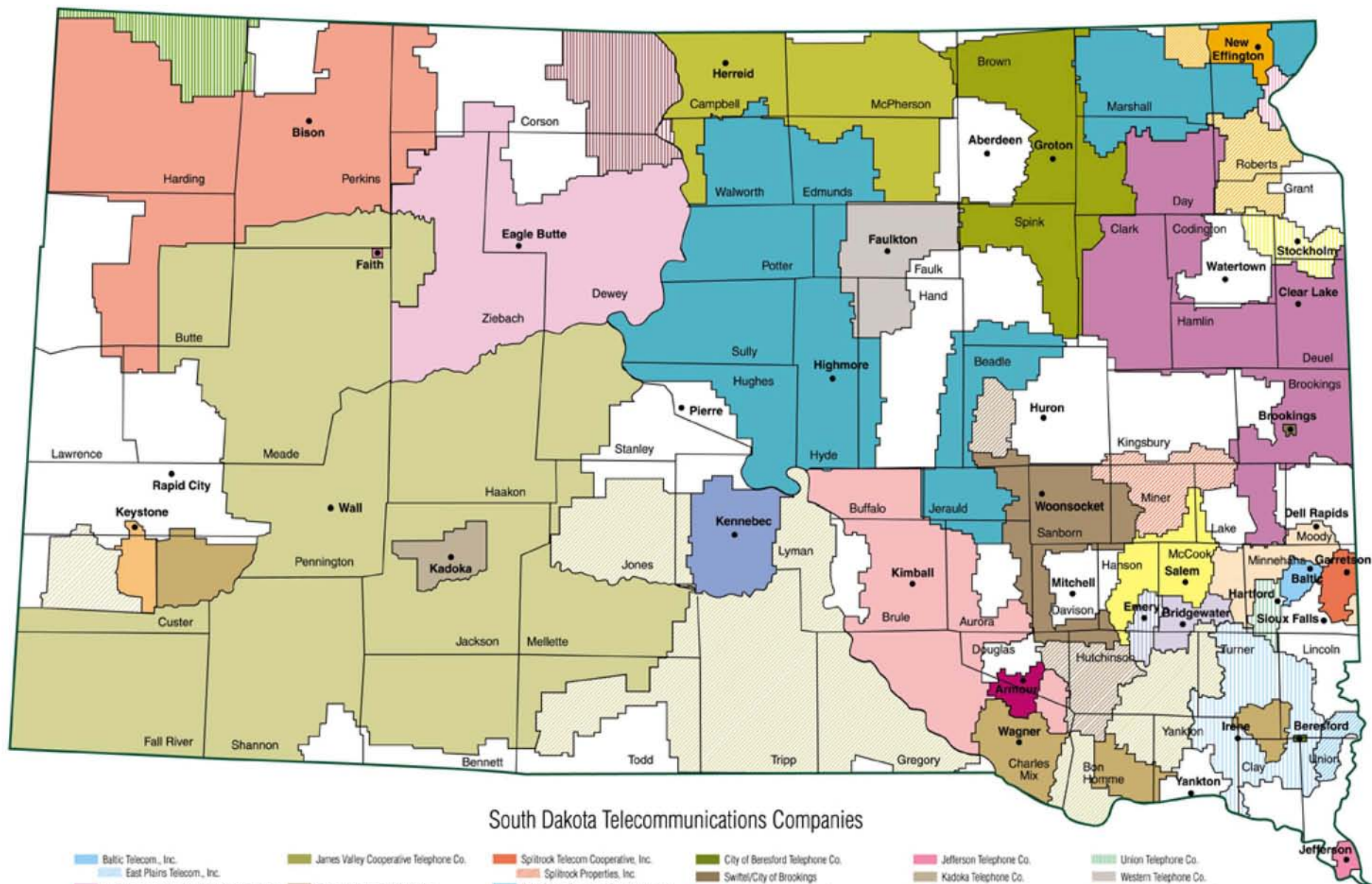
- 20 incumbent landline providers
  - 12 member-owner cooperatives
  - 4 privately-owned companies
    - 2 family-owned companies
    - 2 corporately-owned
  - 3 municipal companies
  - 1 tribal authority



# South Dakota Telecommunications Association **Who are we?**

- **Mostly serve small towns and rural areas**
  - **Largest communities we serve are:**
    - Brookings (pop. 18,504)
    - Brandon (pop. 5,693)
    - Hot Springs (pop. 4,129)
    - Pine Ridge (pop. 3,171)
  - **Population density of areas served by SDTA member: approx. 4 people/sq. mile**
    - 11 counties have less than 2 people/sq. mile
    - (sources: U.S. Census Bureau and SD Public Utilities Commission)
  - **West River Telecom, Bison, SD**
    - Service area: 6,209 square miles (28% larger than state of Connecticut)
    - 3,452 access lines
      - .56 lines per square mile





South Dakota Telecommunications Companies

- |   |   |  |                                  |                                    |                                     |
|---|---|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Baltic Telecom, Inc.                            | James Valley Cooperative Telephone Co.    | Spitbrook Telecom Cooperative, Inc.            | City of Beresford Telephone Co.  | Jefferson Telephone Co.            | Union Telephone Co.                 |
| East Plains Telecom, Inc.                       | Sanborn Telephone Cooperative             | Spitbrook Properties, Inc.                     | Switz/City of Brookings          | Kadoka Telephone Co.               | Western Telephone Co.               |
| Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. | SANCOM, Inc.                              | Sully Buttes Telephone Cooperative, Inc.       | Faith Municipal Telephone Co.    | Kennebec Telephone Co.             | Consolidated Telephone Co.          |
| Midstate Communications, Inc.                   | Golden West Telecommunications Coop, Inc. | Valley Communications Coop, Inc.               | Armour Independent Telephone Co. | Sioux Valley Telephone Co.         | Valley Telephone Co.                |
| West River Telephone Cooperative                | Vivian Telephone Company                  | Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority | Mount Rushmore Telephone         | Stockholm-Strandburg Telephone Co. | West River Telecommunications Co.   |
|   | McCook Cooperative Telephone Company      | Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Assn.     | Fort Randall Telephone Company   | Tri-County Telecom, Inc.           | Bridgewater-Canistota Telephone Co. |
|   |   | RC Communications                              |                                  | Dakota Community Telephone         |                                     |



# South Dakota Telecommunications Association **Who are we?**

- Our members collectively:
  - serve **79.5% of South Dakota** (service areas cover more than **61,000 square miles**)
  - serve more than 160,000 access lines
  - own more than **21,000 miles of buried fiber optic line**
  - supply broadband service to more than **250 communities** (most with populations of less than 1,000)
  - offer digital video to more than 80 communities
  - provide wireless broadband in select areas





**Thank you for  
your time!**

